

Remarks/Arguments

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 7 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 8-15 have been canceled. Claims 9 – 15 have been canceled as a result of a restriction requirement. Applicants retain the right to present claims 9 – 15 in a Divisional application.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement identifying the following groups of claims as being drawn to potentially distinct inventions:

Group I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a method of producing glass substrates, classified in class 65, subclass 107;

Group II. Claims 9-15, drawn to an apparatus for producing a glass substrate, classified in class 249, subclass 80.

The Examiner asserted that these inventions may be regarded as independent and distinct from one another because Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice.

In a telephone conference with the undersigned attorney/agent of record dated 5/9/05, a provisional election to Group I, claims 1-8 was made, without traverse.

Applicants hereby confirm that provisional election, without traverse.

As a formality, Applicants hereby cancel claims 9 – 15, without prejudice.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the previously filed drawings. New drawings are submitted herewith, and are labelled as Replacement Sheets. Specifically:

FIG. 1 has been labeled as Prior Art, and represents a conventional cassette as used in the industry to, for example, store and transport sheets of glass.

FIG. 2 has been labeled Prior Art, and represents the sag which may be experienced by a conventional sheet of glass stored in the cassette of FIG. 1 without benefit of the present invention.

Labels have been removed from FIG. 3 which erroneously identified FIGS. 3A and 3B as a typical cassette/glass configuration. It is clear from the as-filed specification that FIGS.

3A and 3B are illustrations of embodiments of the invention. For example, see the last sentence of the first paragraph of the Detailed Description on page 4, "An exemplary embodiment of the processing fixture of the present invention is shown in Figures 3A and 3B, and is designated generally throughout by reference numeral 10." See also the last paragraph of page 4, beginning with "As embodied herein and depicted in Figure 3A, a view of the open processing fixture 10 in accordance with the present invention is disclosed."

Specification

The specification has been amended to reflect the correct references to the drawings.

§ 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 4,655,811 (Bitter).

The Examiner asserts that Bitter discloses a method for producing a curved glass member, and notes, inter alia, that the glass of Bitter is coated with a carbonaceous paint film to prevent crazing of the glass substrate and avoid a reduction in transmittance or cause the glass to be hazy. The Examiner concludes that this clearly suggests to a person of ordinary skill in the art that the support members should be made of an inert material that does not interact or contaminate the glass substrate to avoid a reduction in transmittance of the glass, or to cause the glass to be hazy. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants point out that Bitter coats the surface of the sputtered indium-tin oxide film coating of the substrate with a carbonaceous coating, not the glass substrate itself. Bitter makes clear that substoichiometry at the interface between the indium-tin oxide film and the carbonaceous coating prevents crazing of the *film* at the moment of bend, not the glass substrate as the Examiner contends (see, for example, column 2, lines 58 – 68). The transmittance of the film is dependent upon such factors as the quantity of carbonaceous coating: too little and the film will craze, too much and the film will not be sufficiently optically transmissive and have an increased electrical resistance (column 4, lines 61 – 66). Indeed, as it pertains to the finished product (the substrate including the

indium-tin oxide film), Bitter's goal is to attain a transmittance of only greater than 70% (column 1, lines 28 – 31, column 2, lines 32 – 35) in the finished product (glass and indium-tin coating). A close reading of Bitter makes obvious the fact that Bitter is directed toward improving the properties of the indium-tin oxide film overtop the glass substrate (good transmittance, low haze (lack of crazing), and low resistivity) rather than the behaviour and characteristics of the glass substrate itself. Applicants therefore assert that amended claim 1 overcomes the prior art of record. Support for the amendment can be found in original claim 8 (now cancelled), and on page 6, first paragraph, of the Specification.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that pending claims 1 – 7 are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorize the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Kevin M Able at (607)974-2637.

Date: 2/18/05

Respectfully submitted,

CORNING INCORPORATED



Kevin M Able
Registration No. 52,401
Corning Incorporated
Patent Department
Mail Stop SP-TI-03-1
Corning, NY 14831

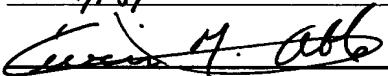


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Kevin M Able, Signature